

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

The North Providence School Committee met on February 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library at the High School. Members present were Chairman Martinelli, Mr. DaSilva, Mr. Marciano, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Martinelli, Mr. Iannetta, and Mr. Palmieri. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. McAllister and Mr. Henneous. Ms. Celona, Mr. Gerardi, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular session only.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and carried to recess the regular session and go into Executive Session at 5:03 p.m. for the purpose of Obtaining Report on Personnel Matter; Legal Advice on the Records Policy; Advice on Perkins Grant Position; Administrative Contract; Legal Advice re: Recording Public Session; Use of Legal Counsel; Settlement of Workers Compensation Claim; Employee Non-Renewals; Contract Information; and Student Request to Address Committee.

The meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m. It began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Martinelli asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman Martinelli began by asking if anyone had any objection to moving the Recognition Portion of the meeting to the front of the Agenda. Hearing none, the next item on the Agenda was Student Recognition. Chairman Martinelli asked Donald Emerson to assist

with the award presentation. First was the award for the Birchwood Middle School Boys Basketball State Champions. The names of the team were read and received a certificate and congratulations. Next was the award for the Interscholastic League Boys Division III Swimming State Champions North Providence High School Team. Mr. Emerson asked the coaches to come up to help present the awards. The names of the team were read and each received a certificate and congratulations. Members of the School Committee offered congratulations. Mr. DaSilva spoke about the fact that both the boys and girls teams won the sportsmanship awards. Mrs. Reall added that the athletes were not only talented, but also handsome.

Next was the Chairman's Report of Votes Taken in Executive Session. Chairman Martinelli reported that the Committee voted in Executive Session regarding the purchase of microphones and the Beacon settlement.

Next was Correspondence. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was the Superintendent's Report. First was the Records Policy Approval. Superintendent Ottaviano stated that this matter was being tabled and referred to legal counsel at this time. Next were Field Trips. Dr. Gerardi recommended approval of the Field Trip Requests as submitted in accordance with School Committee Policy.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve

the Field Trip Requests as submitted and in accordance with School Committee Policy.

Next was Home Schooling Requests. There being none, the next item was Kindergarten Registration (2007/08) Packets. Superintendent Ottaviano asked for approval of the Kindergarten Registration Packets to be distributed to the elementary schools in accordance with State Law (to be filed by September 1st.)

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Kindergarten Registration Packets (2007/08) as submitted.

Next was the Monthly Financial Reports. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the February 2008 Financial Report be approved as presented.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the February 2008 Financial Report as submitted.

Next was Consideration of Dedication of Some Portion of Auditorium. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about the generous donation made to the North Providence High School in memory of Polly Terino and asked for the Committee's approval of some portion of the auditorium, such as the stage, to be dedicated to the memory of Polly Terino.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the request that a portion of the auditorium, such as the stage, to be dedicated to the memory of Polly always dedicated to the Town and can appreciate that something should be dedicated to her.

Next was the Bus Safety Presentation. Chairman Martinelli asked Mr. Cardi to introduce himself and speak about the proposal. Mr. Cardi spoke about the independent research regarding bus safety. The proposal would be at no cost to the School Department and would help protect the most precious cargo, the children. Chairman Martinelli added that there are legal concerns that would need to be addressed and felt that the program should be under the custody and control of the police department. Mr. Cardi explained that the equipment costs approximately \$12,500.00 per bus. The proposal would be to install the equipment on a couple of busses as a test program to determine if it would be feasible to install the equipment on all the busses. Mr. Marciano asked if anyone in RI is using the equipment. Mr. Cardi stated that they are running the equipment in Louisiana and Texas. Mr. Palmieri asked for clarification of how the children would be monitored. Mr. Cardi stated that the monitoring of the children is optional. Mr. Palmieri also asked who would be in charge of monitoring the children. Mr. Cardi felt that the police could monitor the children or the School Department could hire someone to monitor the children. Mr. Iannetta asked if they spoke with the police

department. Mr. Cardi stated that they have not spoken to the police department yet. Chairman Martinelli asked if it was because they need to speak with the School Committee and the Council first? Mr. Cardi stated that this is the beginning of the process. Mr. Iannetta asked how long On Go Live has been in existence. Mr. Cardi stated that the technology was originally part of Homeland Security and then it switched to child safety. Mr. DaSilva suggested that the company contact the Superintendent and meet with Mr. Milazzo and Mrs. Celona and have them make a recommendation to the School Committee. Mr. Milazzo felt that the program sounds like a great idea and there have been problems with busses on Mineral Spring Avenue. He added that the bus contract was up in September and questioned how it would work if the equipment was installed and then the bus contract was not renewed. Legal Counsel felt that there could be some difficulties with some aspects of the proposal. Chairman Martinelli felt that the first phase of the program is the test phase only and that there is no obligation. He felt that he would like to see how the equipment works. Mr. Marciano felt that there has been some good discussion on this but that we do not want to commit ourselves to something without more information. He asked if the School Department would be required to sign anything. Mr. Cardi stated that nothing would need to be signed until the program is put in place. Mrs. Reall felt that at this point, she is still leery about the whole thing because there are pieces missing and there is a potential issue of the bus company. She added that she is not against it but would like it to be done judiciously. Mr. Palmieri

questioned Mr. Cardi's statement that it would be fantastic if no one passed the busses but if that were true, then you would be out of business. Chairman Martinelli asked if there was a motion from any Committee member.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano to go forward with this proposal to move to the test phase. Mrs. Reall asked for a roll call vote. Mr. DaSilva, aye; Mrs. Reall, nay; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mr. Palmieri, nay; Mr. Iannetta, nay; Mr. Martinelli, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 3.

Next was the Report on the Personnel Matter on information submitted relative to the Director of Finance from the Personnel Subcommittee. Chairman Martinelli reported that the Superintendent submitted information and a report to the Committee and that the Committee was satisfied not to pursue the matter. He asked for a motion to accept the report.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to accept the Superintendent's Report regarding the Personnel Matter discussed in Executive Session.

Next was the Assistant Coach Position. Glenn Williams appeared before the Committee to answer questions regarding his request for an assistant coach. Mr. Marciano spoke about the discussion at the meeting last month regarding his request and asked him to talk about

his request. Mr. Williams spoke about the number of children participating in sports and the fact that there are varsity and junior varsity games and the national federation of high school sports will only allow certified coaches to be on base. Mr. Iannetta asked how it is determined who makes the team? Mr. Williams felt that it is based on how many he can handle and that it is different from year to year. Mr. Martinelli asked if the position was in the budget. Mr. DaSilva asked if the position was approved. Mr. Williams wasn't sure if the position was approved. Mr. DaSilva asked Mr. Williams if he felt that baseball is where the position is needed. Mr. Williams felt that the position would be for this year. Mr. DaSilva asked if the Committee decided to approve the position, would there be room in the budget to absorb the cost? Mrs. Celona and Mr. Williams stated that there is room in his budget.

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the assistant coach position for the budget this year.

Next was the Administrative Contract. This item was taken off the Agenda. Next was the School Committee Subcommittees. Chairman Martinelli spoke about the appointments and the fact that no vote is required for the appointments.

Mr. DaSilva suggested that the Athletics and Facilities Subcommittee be abolished because the in-kind services piece is no longer in place. Chairman Martinelli spoke about the fact that if the Subcommittee is

abolished, then it would fall back on the Building Subcommittee. Mr. DaSilva understood and felt that it should be part of the Building Subcommittee and that he is part of that Subcommittee anyway. Mrs. Reall expressed concern with the fact that the Building Subcommittee already has a great deal of work and that is the reason that the new subcommittee was added. She felt that she would not be in support of consolidating the two subcommittees.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Cataldi to eliminate the Athletics and Facilities Subcommittee. Mrs. Reall asked for a roll call vote. Mr. DaSilva, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Reall, nay; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Martinelli, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

Next was the State Aid to Education Funding Formula. Mr. DaSilva asked Tim Duffy of the RI Association of School Committees to talk about the funding formula. He thanked Mr. Duffy for coming. Mr. Duffy passed out information. Chairman Martinelli asked Mr. Duffy if he would be mind allowing the Committee to take a brief recess at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Duffy thanked the Committee and spoke about the RI Legislature joint committee to establish a funding formula. He passed out a copy of a report. He spoke about the fact that RI is one of two states that does not have a predictable funding formula. The RI Association of School

Committees feels that there should be a foundation amount that takes into account special education students (counts as 2) and free/reduced lunch. The Association is in the process of finalizing legislation. Mr. Marciano stated that he knows that the Association has worked very hard on this. Mr. DaSilva asked if the Association has a template that they could provide to send a letter to our legislators. Mr. Duffy stated that he would be happy to provide a template. He added that the Association would be rallying people to the Senate and House Finance Committee.

Next was Baseball Fields – Preparation and Maintenance. Mr. DaSilva stated that he put this on the Agenda and would like to combine it with the Lights and Usage. He first spoke about the High School Field and the fact that the Town cut down the trees that blocked the balls from going out of the field and blocked the barbed wire, which is now exposed. He felt that it is time to get the field ready. He expressed concern with the how much the Town will charge the School Department to get the field ready. He added that he feels that the backstop in center field needs to come out. Chairman Martinelli felt that Mr. DaSilva had some valid points and asked if he would be willing to meet with Mr. Milazzo and the Building Subcommittee to address his concerns. Mr. DaSilva next spoke about the five different leagues that use the field. He felt that there needs to be a policy regarding the lights. Mr. Hendricks addressed the Committee to inquire about how many games will be played at the field. It used to be two games a week until 10:00 p.m. at night. Mr.

Marciano felt that the proposal that Mr. Hendricks made is reasonable. Mr. Hendricks felt that the cutoff time should be 9:30 p.m. Mr. Marciano felt that we need to set a curfew and days for usage. Mr. DaSilva asked Mr. Zammarelli to come up as a representative of the Babe Ruth League. Mr. DaSilva first wanted to make it clear that the Babe Ruth League was not involved in the issues that Mr. Hendricks was addressing. Mr. Zammarelli spoke about all of the improvements that the Babe Ruth League made to the High School Field. He also spoke about the fact that the Babe Ruth League understands that the High School teams have priority for the usage. However, the Babe Ruth League has lost a lot of the weekend slots because of the varsity and junior varsity teams. Mr. Palmieri spoke in favor of the Babe Ruth League and felt that 9:30 p.m. is too early. He felt that if there is a timer on the lights and they go off automatically at a certain time, then the games will have to end. Mr. Iannetta felt that a decision has to be made as to how many nights the field will be used and when the lights will be turned off. He also felt that there should be a way to prioritize the usage. Mrs. Reall commented that the discussion that has taken the last forty-five minutes is the perfect argument of why the Subcommittee should not be dismissed. Mr. DaSilva felt that it is a School Committee issue that needs to be decided. Next, Lou Larivierre asked the Committee to act quickly. He added that he believes that Mr. Hendricks is speaking on behalf of all the people in the area and that the lights should be used responsibly. He felt that the leagues need to be good neighbors and schedule games earlier. He also spoke about the public address

system and felt that it is shameful that no one asked the neighbors before installing it. Chairman Martinelli recommended that the Building Subcommittee schedule a meeting as soon as possible. Mr. DaSilva stated that with all due respect, the Subcommittee will come back with a recommendation. Mr. Hendricks cautioned the Committee to “do it right” or he will have to take it to the Town Council.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-6. Mr. Aiello identified himself and offered congratulations to Mr. Martinelli on his appointment as Chairman. He spoke about the Town Ordinance that is in place from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and felt that the children need to be able to play. He next spoke about the Monthly Financial Report.

He felt that he should know what the Committee is approving. Superintendent Ottaviano explained that there is a public copy of the report on the table at each meeting. She added that he could request a copy following the process. Mr. Martinelli explained to Mr. Aiello that he has every right to know what is being spent. He suggested that Mr. Aiello sit down with him to figure it out. Mr. Aiello also asked about who is responsible for the buses.

Next on the Agenda was Requests to Address the Committee. Mr. Antonio identified him to speak about the Birchwood Gate. He felt that it is very frustrating and inconvenient that the gate is closed and that there is only two roads to access his house on Forrest View Drive. He spoke about the traffic backups and the safety concerns.

He added that the police told him that they don't like it either because they use it. Chairman Martinelli explained that this is a difficult issue.

He spoke about correspondence that the School Department received from the Chief of the Fire Department stating that whenever there is an event at the school or anyone is in the school, the gate needs to be open. The School Department is subject to the police and fire departments. The School Committee voted to close the gate when school is closed. He added that the gate will be open whenever custodians are in the building. Mr. Marciano added that the gate may need to be open more and more because of the fire code issues. Next, Michael Rainone of 36 Red Cedar Lane talked about the accident with his son that was a hit and run. People go through too fast. Mr. DaSilva asked if he felt that the bigger issue is the speeding. He suggested that the Superintendent contact the police department to see if they can set up some radar. He suggested that she send a memo out to let us know what the response is. Chairman Martinelli spoke about the fact that the Committee has gone through this thing every which way we could. We cannot overrule the public safety issues. This is no longer a School Committee issue. He felt that the Committee did its due diligence on the gate. Mrs. Reall talked about putting a sign up saying "no through traffic from 8 – 4" or whatever.

Next on the Agenda was New Business. First was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee approve the resignation of Robert Lamothe – North Providence High School Girls Cross Country Coach effective January 27, 2008.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the resignation of Robert Lamothe – North Providence High School Girls Cross Country Coach effective January 27, 2008.

Next was Appointments. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointments, which were voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the appointment of James Curtis – School Based Coordinator Effective February 27, 2008 (Pending Grant Funding); Jennifer Goulding – NPHS Girls LaCrosse Assistant Coach effective February 28, 2008; Ian Hillman – NPHS Girls Cross Country Coach effective February 28, 2008; Kathleen Lisi – NPHS Business Department Chair Effective February 28, 2008; and Amanda Payne – Ricci Middle School Cheerleader Advisor Effective February 28, 2008. Members of the Committee offered congratulations.

Next was Non-Renewals. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about the non-renewals discussed in Executive Session and recommended approval.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the non-renewals discussed in Executive Session.

Next was Old Business. First was Consideration of the Amendment

to the Bylaws of the School Committee. (Second Reading) Mr. Martinelli spoke about this being taken off the Agenda.

Next was Use of Property Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted with the additional requests.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Use of Property Requests as submitted and the leagues will be looked at separately.

Next was Approval of Bills. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the List of Bills as presented.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the February 20, 2008 List of Bills as presented.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2008 Executive Session Meeting as presented and keep closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-4-4 and 42-4-5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Minutes of the Regular North Providence School

Committee Meeting of January 23, 2008 subject to the corrections discussed.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2008 Executive Session as presented and keep closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-4-4 and 42-4-5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2008 Special School Committee Meeting as presented.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Pending Business. There being none,

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Iannetta